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## **Natural Resources Trust Fund Board recommends Saugatuck land acquisition**

**LANSING** – The city of Saugatuck is one step closer to acquiring Lake Michigan shoreline for public use after the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board voted today to approve \$10 million for the purchase of 160 acres adjacent to Oval Beach, Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, announced.

The property to be purchased includes dunes and wetlands and would be used as a natural park for public recreation.

“This is great news for the people of West Michigan, as well as the entire state,” Birkholz said. “People, for many generations to come, will be grateful for the work of the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board today. It is important to preserve this land to protect its environmental integrity.”

Although the board has approved the funding for the purchase, the Legislature needs to approve the expenditure of the funds. The project states the funds will be expended \$3,566,700 per year for three years.

“This vote is a tribute to the hard work over the past several years by the city of Saugatuck, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, the Nature Conservancy, Jim Brooks, as well as Phil Miller and Saugatuck Save our Shoreline members,” Birkholz said. “I also want to recognize and commend the anonymous donors of Saugatuck and their commitment to the stewardship of this natural treasure.”

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